

# DECEMBER 2022 FIFE LABOUR MARKET UPDATE

This monthly update by Fife Council uses figures released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). All data are provisional and subject to revision.

## CLAIMANT RATE (December 2022)

*% of working age (16-64) residents claiming out-of-work benefits (Jobseeker's Allowance or Universal Credit)*

<b>3.4%</b> Fife	<b>3.2%</b> Scotland	<b>3.7%</b> United Kingdom
---------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------------

Source: ONS Claimant Count

In December, Fife's claimant rate remained the same as the previous month whilst the Scottish and UK rates both increased by 0.1%. The estimated number of people claiming out-of-work benefits in Fife however increased from 7,815 to 7,980. December's claimant rate was 0.8 percentage points lower than a year ago in December 2021 (4.2%), and 0.4 percentage points lower than the pre-pandemic February 2020 rate (3.8%).

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (Oct 2021 – Sep 2022)

*% of economically active residents aged over 16 who are without a job but are seeking/waiting to start a job.*

<b>3.7%</b> Fife	<b>3.5%</b> Scotland	<b>3.7%</b> United Kingdom
---------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------------

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey (the Fife unemployment rate is a model-based estimate)

For the twelve months to September 2022, an estimated 7,000 people were unemployed in Fife and Fife's unemployment rate was at a record low (3.7%). Fife's latest employment rate (71.4%) however is still lower than prior to the pandemic (73.7% in Jan-Dec 2019).

## ECONOMIC INACTIVITY (Oct 2021 – Sep 2022)

*% of working age (16-64) residents who are neither working nor seeking or available to work.*

<b>24.6%</b> Fife	<b>22.8%</b> Scotland	<b>21.6%</b> United Kingdom
----------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------------



Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

Fife's economic inactivity rate fell slightly from the record high (26.9%) recorded in the previous period (the 12 months to June 2022). Long term ill-health was the reason given for not being in employment or seeking work by 31.3% of those who were economically inactive in the region.

## PROFILE OF FIFE CLAIMANTS






*NB claimant count data are rounded to the nearest 5 and may not precisely add to the sum of the number of people claiming JSA, published by the ONS, and the number of people claiming Universal Credit required to seek work, published by the Department of Work and Pensions, due to independent rounding.*

### 2.1 Breakdown by Type of Claimant

December 2022	Claimant Rate	Claimant Count	Claimant Count - monthly change
People searching for work on Universal Credit	3.2%	7,390	+150 
Jobseeker's Allowance claimants	0.3%	590	+16 

Source: Department for Work & Pensions; ONS Jobseeker's Allowance















### 2.2 Breakdown by Age & Gender

December 2022	Claimant Rate	Claimant Count	Claimant Count - monthly change
16-24 year olds claiming benefits	3.7%	1,445	+5 
25-49 year olds claiming benefits	4.1%	4,650	+95 
50-64 year olds claiming benefits	2.1%	1,735	+60 
Male claimants	4.3%	4,870	+65 
Female claimants	2.6%	3,110	+95 

Source: ONS Claimant Count

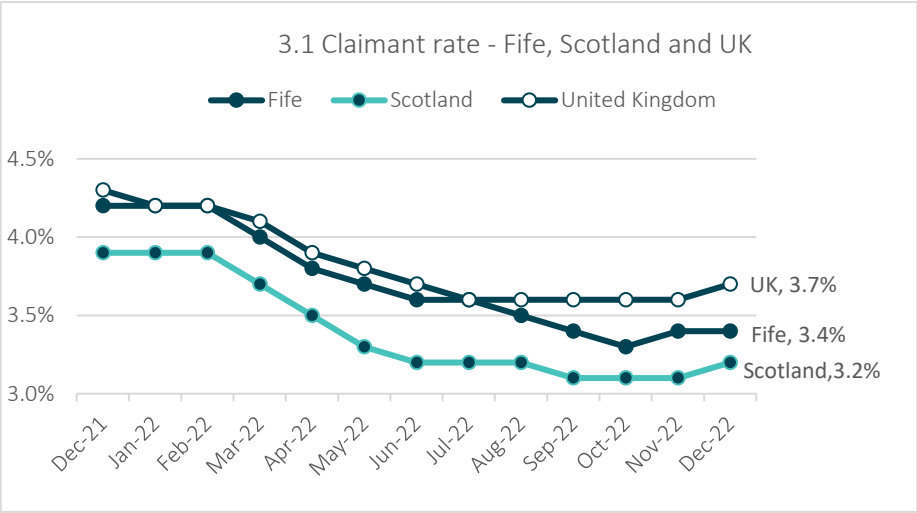
### 2.3 Area Committee Summary (December 2022)

*In this area summary, a monthly change is given for both the claimant count and rate. For the claimant rate, the change represents the difference in percentage points between this month's claimant rate and last month's rate.*

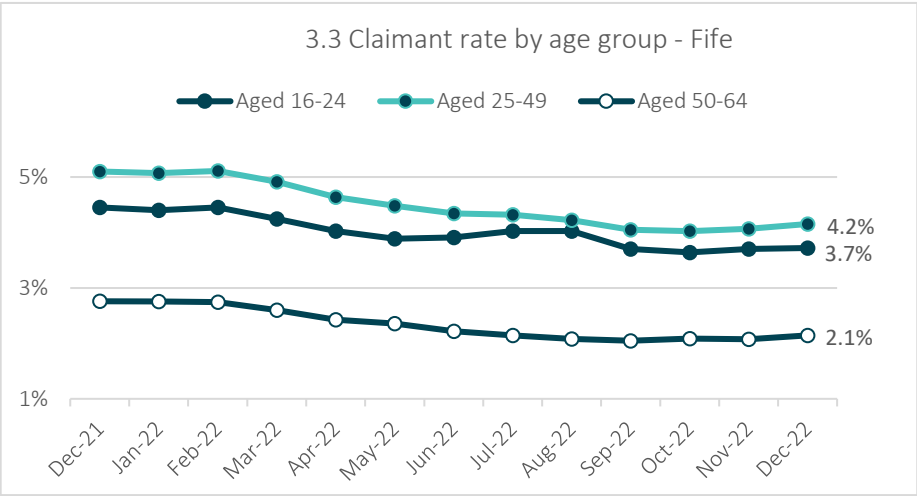
December 2022	Claimant Rate	Monthly change	Claimant Count	Monthly change	Female	Male
Cowdenbeath	4.2%	0.0 	1,095	+15 	430	665
Dunfermline	2.7%	-0.1 	1,015	-25 	400	610
Glenrothes	3.2%	-0.1 	970	-20 	385	585
Kirkcaldy	5.5%	+0.2 	2,015	+80 	765	1,255
Levenmouth	5.3%	+0.2 	1,210	+55 	440	770
North East Fife	1.7%	+0.1 	805	+50 	325	480
South & West Fife	2.6%	0.0 	820	+5 	350	470

Source: ONS Claimant Count

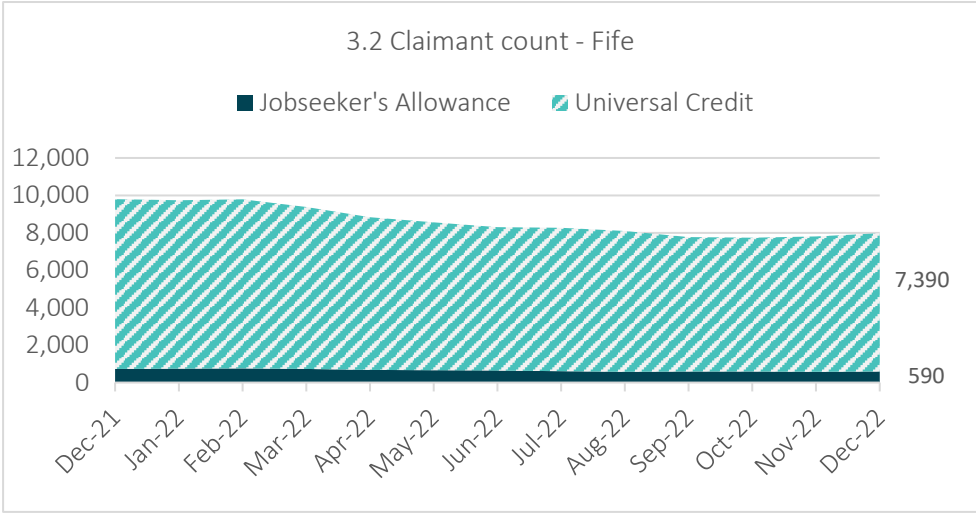
## BREAKDOWN & COMPARISONS OF KEY INDICATORS



Source: ONS Claimant Count



Source: ONS Claimant Count

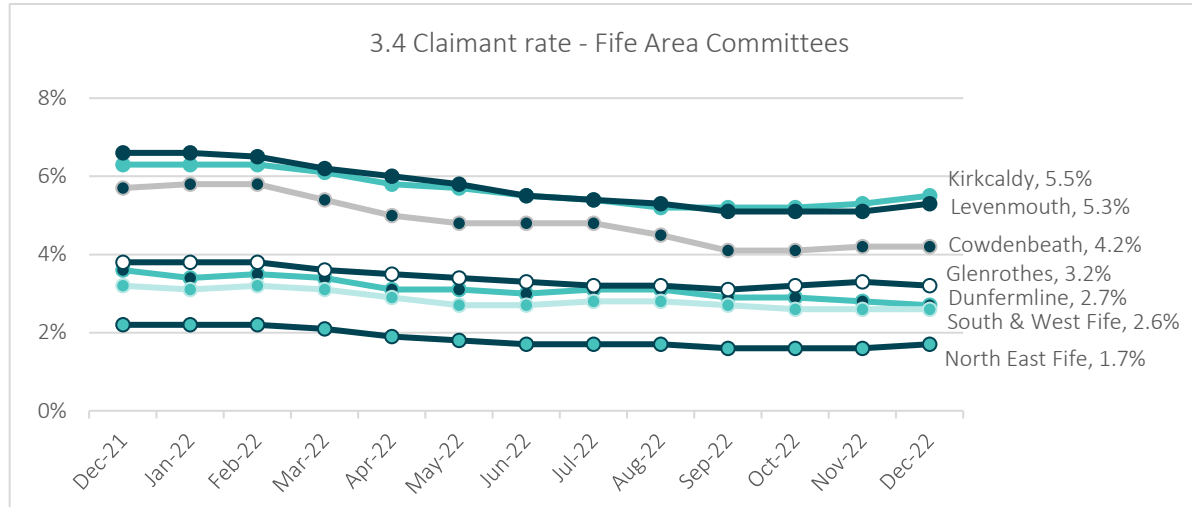


Source: ONS Jobseeker's Allowance; Department for Work and Pensions

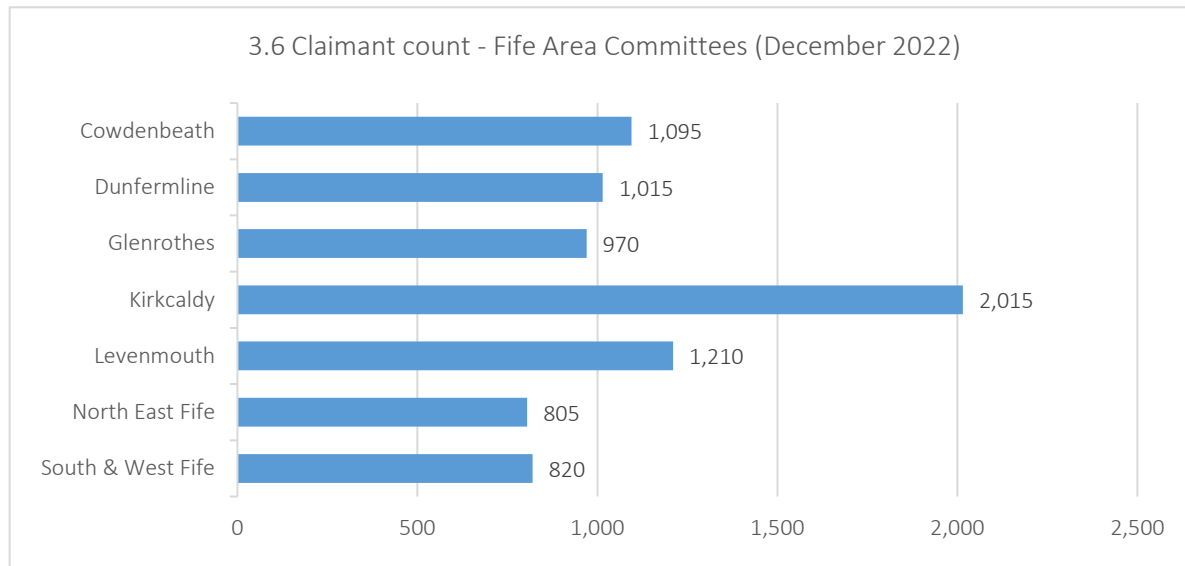
There were **150 more people claiming Universal Credit** and searching for work in Fife compared with the previous month but 1,681 fewer than a year ago in December 2021. The **number of JSA claimants increased by 16 people** between November and December 2022 but fell by 139 people between December 2021 and December 2022 (Table 2.1).

The **50-64 age group saw the largest proportionate rise in claimant numbers (+3.6%)** and the **16-24 year old age group the smallest increase (+0.3%)**. (Table 2.2 and Graph 3.3).

For the second month running, there were more new female claimants than male (+95 women compared with +65 men) although the **male claimant rate (4.3%) still remains significantly higher than the female rate (2.6%)** (Table 2.2).



Source: ONS Claimant Count



Source: ONS Claimant Count

### 3.5 Claimant Rate by Ward (December 2022)

HIGHEST	
Kirkcaldy Central	7.7%
Kirkcaldy East	7.1%
Buckhaven, Methil & Wemyss Villages	7.0%
LOWEST	
Howe of Fife & Tay Coast	2.2%
Inverkeithing & Dalgety Bay	2.2%
Tay Bridgehead	1.9%
St Andrews	0.7%

Source: ONS Claimant Count

Dunfermline and Glenrothes were the only committee areas where claimant numbers and rates fell. All other areas saw an increase in claimant numbers. Levenmouth and the Kirkcaldy area saw the largest increases in claimant numbers and rates (Table 2.3 and Graph 3.4).

Kirkcaldy Central, Kirkcaldy East and Buckhaven, Methil & Wemyss Villages remain the electoral wards with the highest claimant rates in Fife (Table 3.5).

### 3.7 Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region

Claimant Rate by Local Authority



	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	Monthly change		Annual change	
City of Edinburgh	2.3%	2.4%	+0.1	↑	-0.5	↓
East Lothian	2.2%	2.2%	0.0	—	-1.0	↓
Fife	3.4%	3.4%	0.0	—	-0.8	↓
Midlothian	2.2%	2.2%	0.0	—	-0.8	↓
Scottish Borders	3.0%	3.0%	0.0	—	-0.5	↓
West Lothian	2.6%	2.6%	0.0	—	-0.6	↓

Source: ONS Claimant Count

Dundee, Edinburgh, NE Fife and Perth & Kinross all saw claimant rates increase in December. As in previous months, Fife's claimant rate (3.4%) was the second highest after Dundee (4.2%).

Between 2019 and 2027, the Edinburgh & SE Scotland City Region Deal is investing £25 million in pilot employability and skills projects targeted at those furthest from the workplace. The programme will improve 14,700 people's skills and move 5,300 people into employment.

### 3.8 Tay Cities Region



Claimant Rate by Local Authority and Fife Committee Area

	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	Monthly change		Annual change	
Angus	2.9%	2.9%	0.0	—	-0.6	↓
Dundee	4.1%	4.2%	+0.1	↑	-0.7	↓
North East Fife	1.6%	1.7%	+0.1	↑	-0.5	↓
Perth & Kinross	2.2%	2.3%	+0.1	↑	-0.6	↓

Source: ONS Claimant Count

The Tay Cities Region Deal is investing up to £700m in projects expected to support over 6,000 jobs.

The Tay Cities Region captures North East Fife only, and the Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region covers an area in the South and West of Fife (maps 3.7 and 3.8).

NB Care should be taken when using these geographies

## CLAIMANT COUNT STATISTICS

The claimant counts and claimant rates given in this update are based on experimental data collected by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The claimant count represents the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance plus the number of people on Universal Credit who are required to search for work and are available for work.

Universal Credit replaces six legacy benefits and tax credits (including Jobseeker's Allowance and Income-related Employment and Support Allowance) and was fully introduced in Fife on 6 January 2017 after initially going live in the region in April 2016.

Universal Credit requires more people to look for work than was the case for legacy benefits; new claimants who are waiting on or appealing Work Capability Assessments are also required to look for work.

The claimant count dataset is still classified by the ONS as experimental statistics. This status is likely to continue until the roll out of Universal Credit is completed. Please note that care should therefore be taken when analysing and interpreting the figures.

Claimant Count, Jobseekers Allowance and Universal Credit statistics are provisional on their date of release and are subject to revision.

For more information and to access all the labour market statistics from official sources for the UK visit [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk).

For further information about the contents of this publication, or to request any bespoke economic information, please contact:

Alison Laughlin  
Fife Council – Business & Employability Services  
Email: [alison.laughlin@fife.gov.uk](mailto:alison.laughlin@fife.gov.uk)

Fife Council, having made reasonable enquiries, believes that the information contained within this publication was accurate at 17 January 2023. Fife Council is acting as a distributor (not publisher) of content supplied by third parties. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not represent the opinions of Fife Council. Fife Council cannot and does not warrant the veracity of the information and excludes any liability for any party's reliance on the information contained herein.